

*Carmel, NY* – Congressman John Hall, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, issued the following statement in response to the final combat brigade leaving Iraq.

“The thousands of men and women who have served in Iraq over the last seven and a half years have served their nation with honor and dignity, and I thank them for their service. American forces deployed in Iraq have suffered greatly, and unfortunately, many will continue to suffer from the invisible wounds of war after they have returned home to their families. They served with courage and skill, and our nation owes them a tremendous debt.

This historic moment is an opportunity to reflect on the countless lessons we have learned along the way and to make sure, as servicemen and women return home, that we maintain our commitment to serve them as well as they have served us. As Chairman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, I will be relentless in making sure we honor this commitment. We must also remain firm in our resolve to help the Iraqi people to be independent and self-sufficient.

While the war in Iraq is officially over, there is still work to be done and we must not forget about the 50,000 troops that will remain, helping to train Iraqi forces and continuing to rebuild the nation. We must always remember those who lost their lives, or were injured, while carrying out their duties.

I thank the numerous soldiers from the Hudson Valley, and their families, for their sacrifice. I look forward to watching mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and husbands and wives reuniting on American soil. This is a day all of us have been waiting for, as we move one step closer to ending to this chapter in our nation’s history.”